

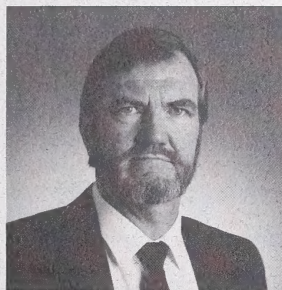
IN OUR BACKYARD

JAN - 2 1991



AN UPDATE FROM THE ALBERTA SPECIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Appointment Notice



Ken J. Simpson

Mr. Robert C. Clark, Chairman of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, is pleased to announce the appointment of Ken J. Simpson to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer.

A professional engineer, Mr. Simpson has over 20 years experience in environmental management and pollution control in consulting, contracting and government. He was involved in the development of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre near Swan Hills since its inception and has been active in many innovative waste management projects including recycling and resource recovery.

Since September of 1984, Mr. Simpson has held the

position of Senior Vice-President of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, responsible for system development and operation.

Mr. Simpson replaces Mr.

R. Lorne Mick who has elected to focus his energies on the establishment of an international centre of expertise in environmental and waste management.



Onoway is on its Way

If you're thinking of putting down roots in a country community, we recommend that you call Gwynn Alcorn. She's the Municipal Administrator for the Village of Onoway, just sixty kilometres west of Edmonton, and like most of the local citizens, she's determined to keep this pleasant spot both progressive and unpolluted.

"The Hub of the Highways," Onoway sits at the junction of Highways 37 and 43 - one providing a forty-

minute link to Edmonton, the other taking traffic to Whitecourt, Grande Prairie, and the Peace River Country. Primarily a farming community, it has a population of 647, but serves a market area population of some 15,500. Its trading area includes Alberta Beach and, with it, fluctuating summer populations of vacationers whose concern for the environment does not always match that of the residents.

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Produced every two months by the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, "In Our Backyard" is intended to keep Albertans updated on issues and solutions in hazardous waste management. You can contribute to the process by "recycling" this newsletter. Pass it on to a friend with your comments. And, should you have suggestions you wish to share, pass them on to us. Write, call or fax:

Irene Chanin
Vice President,
Communications ASWMC
(Note the Corporation's new address on page 8)



**Alberta
Special Waste
Management
Corporation**
AN ALBERTA CROWN CORPORATION

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Keeping the community informed: The Swan Hills Liaison Committee



*Staying apprised of the issues;
a typical session of the Liaison Committee.*

Swan Hills residents have always played an active role in the Special Waste Management program. This was particularly evident during the siting of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre when members of the community acquired an exceptional knowledge of modern disposal procedures.

When Swan Hills was named as the successful site for Alberta's Special Waste Treatment Centre, a great number of local residents continued their enthusiastic support for the area's newest industry - support which has been welcomed by The Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation.

A mutual awareness of the value of the system has led to continuing two-way communication. One particularly beneficial result was the formation, in 1985, of the Swan Hills Special Waste Liaison Committee. Originally organized to help identify local issues and to help convey information from the Corporation to the community during the planning of the new centre, the committee has con-

tinued to function as a sounding board for concerns and issues arising with respect to the operation.

While the committee's tasks are varied, it is primarily concerned with staying up to date on the complex subject of Special Waste Management - thereby enabling its members to communicate relevant information to the community of Swan Hills and provide feedback. Its activities include:

- ▲ Meeting regularly to receive consultants' reports and related data from the Corporation in order to understand the activities and objectives of various planning, construction, and implementation phases;



*Put it there! Allan Gray gets
a big hand from Bob Clark.*

- ▲ Staying informed of site and System development;
- ▲ Receiving briefs from Corporation consultants and technical staff on common methods of treatment so as to fully understand the function of the Special Waste Treatment Centre;
- ▲ Assisting the Corporation with information programs, including the manning of displays at public forums, the planning of speaking engagements, and the distribution of informational materials;
- ▲ Maintaining a familiarity with technical standards and monitoring methods and ways of interpretation - in order to understand air and monitoring reports.
- ▲ Gaining a familiarity with the collection and transfer system throughout the province so as to have a broad perspective on the overall Special Waste Management System;
- ▲ Staying informed about developments when newsworthy events occur;
- ▲ Encouraging two-way communication by assisting with the organization of information meetings, workshops, and local activities;
- ▲ Assisting with special events - particularly in welcoming visitors to the annual Open House.

Committee members are particularly conscious of the informational nature of their role - pointing out that it is not their responsibility to negotiate with Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation or the Centre's operator, Chem-Security (Alberta) Ltd., for community needs. This task, emphasizes Chairman Dave Wenger, is left to the town's elected officials.

Past Liaison Committee members Marcie Giroux, Robert Wilson, Graeme Jenks, Joan Butler, Alan Gray, Derek Kool, and Peter Kearns were

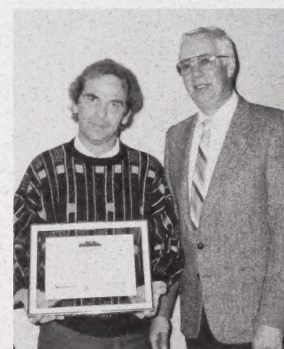
among the first recipients of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation's Gold Level Recognition Award. This significant award honours those people who have served,



*Marcie Giroux accepts
congratulations from Committee
Chairman Dave Wenger (left)
and ASWMC Chairman
Bob Clark.*

for no monetary reward, on the committee, thereby contributing to the establishment of a responsible system to protect our environment.

Now serving with Dave Wenger on the six-person Liaison Committee with Debora Spiller and Rose Parker are new members Duane Dingman, Marilee Stephanson, and Chris Brunelle.



*Warm congratulations to Derek
Kool! And the ASWMC's Gold
Level Recognition Award.*

If you wish to find out more information about the work of the Liaison Committee or waste management programs in general, you are invited to call Dave Wenger c/o 333-4264.

Innisfail Study Group Gains Insight into Environmental Issues

The following is extracted from a special feature on regional environmental issues produced by Siobhan Atkey of The Innisfail Province. It is reprinted here with the newspaper's kind permission.

"It's like a loaf of bread. It represents the whole problem. The sensible way of approaching it is by taking one slice at a time."

Fred Keating, under contract to the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation (ASWMC), used this metaphor to suggest an approach which municipalities can take to their environmental concerns. He helped monitor a three-day study workshop at Innisfail that focussed on the disposal of hazardous wastes, recycling, and landfill alternatives.

Over a hundred pages of information plus brochures and newspaper clippings were studied and discussed. The workshop was held on three Wednesdays in November and early December and attracted nine participants, representing a cross-section of Innisfail's community.

The issue of environment is a complex, multifaceted problem. The study group's short-term mandate was to promote awareness and inspire dialogue. A long-term goal was to help the community control its own environmental problems and find tangible solutions, explained Keating.

The study group was made available to interested municipalities by the provincial government through ASWMC, a crown corporation.

The information obtained and discussed in the study

group, "rather confirmed what I already believed," said Trevor Chapman. However, the dialogue did bring home more global environment issues.

"What we have to find is a balance between what we want to do and what we can do," he added.

ENCOURAGE "ACTIVE INTEREST" URGES PARTICIPANT

One of the first steps the group has to take, if it continues, is to "promote public awareness" and through that awareness "an active interest," contended Chapman. Individuals sorting their own garbage, he said, exemplified this kind of active interest. This simple step could save municipalities a lot of money in the long run.

"After being involved with the study group, I am more confident in terms of how toxic waste is being handled in Alberta," said Michael Stonhouse, Minister of the Innisfail Anglican Church. *"I was impressed with the technology being used. I was also very impressed with how determined they (ASWMC) are to have the public fully involved and their openness of continual monitoring by the public. That's reassuring."*

Stonhouse's concerns are both professional and personal. As the Minister of the Anglican Church and through his involvement with the Ten Days for World Development, his focus is with toxic waste clean-up and recycling. On a more personal basis, Stonhouse recently acquired land by the Pine Lake area, only a few miles from the proposed regional landfill site. He does not advocate the current proposal. He is open in his opposition to the proposed site. Stonhouse says he is frustrated by the discussion process and would like to see a more open policy such as that he believes ASWMC has shown in the handling of transfer sites in Swan Hills, Nisku, and Calgary. A team approach is needed in the Pine Lake landfill controversy, he says.

"AN EYE-OPENER ..."

Ken Borgstrom, however, considered the study group "an eye-opener" in that he gained a greater appreciation of the efforts of industry and big business in combatting pollution.

"I realized that industry has been doing a lot of work looking after its toxic waste, while individuals or typical households have not been as conscientious," he said. *"Industry is certainly not perfect, but it is very closely regulated and companies have to be totally accountable."*

"The council," added Borgstrom, a teacher at John Wilson Elementary School, *"should be commended for suggesting that the study group be held in Innisfail. It shows that council members are responsible and concerned."*

Myrt Puddifant, office manager for the Chamber of Commerce, says she has gained a greater awareness. She believes that members of the

study group have an obligation to share the information they received and, where more information can be found, to relay it to the general public.

Councillor Rosalie Van der Velden attended the study group and had this comment: *"I certainly learned something from the group. I particularly appreciated the commitment and interest of the group members. The group is now considering which direction should be taken and I am really encouraged by that."*

Other such study groups have been held throughout the province. From the Grande Prairie study group, reported Fred Keating, there emerged an organization aimed at developing cooperation between the county and the city on matters of environmental concern. The Lethbridge group decided to put its emphasis on public awareness. And the Onoway group agreed to focus on economic growth through environmentally safe means.

The Innisfail group, meanwhile, is having a follow-up meeting this month with the specific purpose of organizing the promotion of a Toxic Round-up in May. There will also be general discussion regarding other steps the group can take to keep Innisfail environmentally safe.

THE POPLAR PRESS

FACT: Recyclers in Ontario save 1.5-million trees annually. If all the paper Canadians throw away were to be recycled, we could save 80-million trees a year.

In preparation for new and comprehensive environmental legislation to be introduced this spring, Alberta Environment is asking Albertans to outline their own environmental vision for the province. It's doing so with this informative and colorful brochure which presents the Department's own mission statement and which sets down ten basic environmental principles intended to ensure the protection, improvement, and wise use of our environment now and in the future:

1. *Shared Responsibility*

All Albertans are responsible for ensuring the protection, improvement, and wise use of our environment through their actions as individual citizens.

2. *Leadership*

Albertans will continue to show national leadership through leading-edge research, technologies, and environmental protection standards.

3. *Public Involvement*

Albertans will have every opportunity to understand and provide advice on decisions affecting our environment.

4. *Action on Environmental Protection*

Albertans are committed to environmental protection by anticipating problems and preventing or mitigating impacts of policies, programs, decisions, and development activities.

5. *Polluters Pay*

The cost of preventing and reclaiming environmental impacts will be borne by the polluter.

6. *Legislative and Regulatory Action*

Albertans' expectations for vigorous protection and enforcement will be translated into comprehensive and publicly responsive legislative action.

7. *Sustainable Development*

Albertans are dedicated to achieving sustainable development to ensure that the utilization of resources and the environment today does not impair their prospective use by future generations.

8. *Integrated Decision-Making*

Protection of the environment will not be compromised by future development. Development decisions will be made through a process that ensures wise use of resources while considering economic growth and prosperity.

9. *Intergovernmental Cooperation*

Albertans recognize their responsibilities to other Canadians and strive to prevent and minimize transboundary environmental impacts. Their government, therefore, will work cooperatively with other jurisdictions to achieve environmental protection, improvement, and wise use, always recognizing its constitutional responsibilities.

10. *Improvement of our Environment for Future Generations*

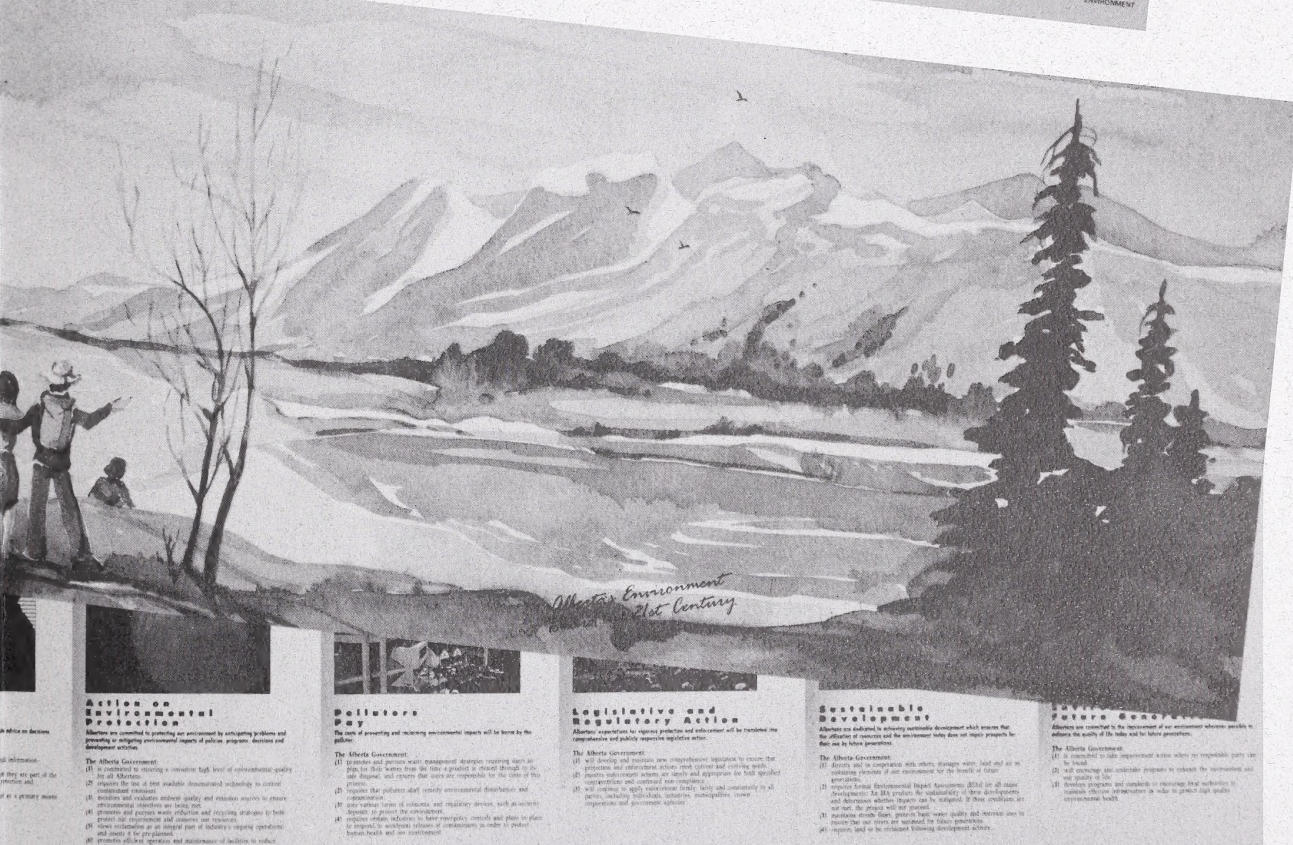
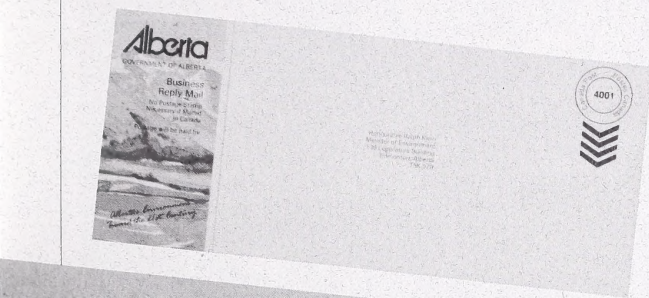
Albertans are committed to the improvement of our environment wherever possible to enhance the quality of life today and for future generations.

Toward the 21st Century

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT STATES ITS MISSION FOR THE NEW DECADE – CHALLENGES ALBERTANS TO REVIEW THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES.



Albertans. Consequently, your assistance in making modifications or improvements is both needed and appreciated. If you did not receive a copy of the brochure please call Alberta Environment at 1-800-667-9691. For further information, contact 427-0047.

[illegible]

Assault on Batteries

Your old car or truck battery may have lost its kick but it can still do shocking things to the environment. It contains hazardous materials – lead and acid – that should never be dumped in a landfill.

If you have an old vehicle battery to get rid of, take it to a battery rebuilder or scrap dealer or keep it safely stored to be turned in during a Toxic Round-up.

A battery rebuilder can give you back a usable battery. A scrap dealer will send the old battery to a rebuilder or to a recycler, who will separate it into its components (lead, plastic, and acid residue) and reuse them. Batteries turned in during a Toxic Round-up will be recycled or disposed of at the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre near Swan Hills.

Careless dumping of lead or acid can have serious consequences. So, in doing your part to clean up our environment, it's worth remembering that even old batteries can get you off to a good start.

ONOWAY IS ON ITS WAY

Continued from page 1

"We've always been very protective of our water supply," says Gwynn, "and especially with maintaining the quality of Lac St. Anne. So we're very conscious of the dangers of uncontrolled waste disposal. In 1988, it became obvious that our regional landfill site was not suitable for the dumping of potentially toxic materials, and I voiced our concerns to the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation. This led to the formation of a Study Group to explore ways of dealing with these special wastes – and to consider whether Onoway might be a suitable site for a Transfer Station, a facility that would help us ensure proper disposal."

CROSS-SECTION

A 12-person Study Group was drawn from a cross-section of the Onoway community and represented all shades of opinion. Led by Terry Slemko, former mayor and the principal of Onoway Elementary, it included Wayne Bevan, farmer; Erna Eontus-Miller, retired school principal; Leonard Bowman, retired farmer; Ray Bugnet, councillor and businessman; Eddy Dales, fire

chief and retail business-man; Ken Johnson, road maintenance; Brian Lee, ambulance driver; Natalie Lewandowski, homemaker and former councillor; Judy Roberts, homemaker; Bruce Stonehouse, deputy fire chief and retail businessman; and Mable Zerke, "a typical concerned grandma."

Through videos and print materials supplied by ASWMC, the group gained a remarkable understanding of all aspects of special waste management (with two teachers in the group, this should surprise nobody!). And after visiting a recycling plant and transfer station at Nisku and touring the Special Waste Treatment Centre near Swan Hills, even those who were originally opposed to an Onoway transfer station became convinced that this was a safe and sensible answer.

Terry Slemko sums up the thinking of the group: "Siting a transfer station here gives us a measure of control. Instead of being faced with the problem of pesticide containers and spray chemicals going into the dump and oil and gas wastes being dumped in ditches, it's better to have a supervised alternative."

DETAILED PROPOSAL

The study group drafted a detailed proposal on an

appropriate plan together with conditions for its acceptance by the town. The report was presented at two public meetings and to the council, which, after adding extensive legal safeguards of its own, decided to proceed.

"Someone has to take the lead," says Terry Slemko, "and by doing so in Onoway, we believe we're helping the whole process."

He echoes the sentiments of Gwynn Alcorn who, in a speech encouraging industry to the community last March, explained: "We want to become known as the little town that cared so much about a healthy environment that we took the first step in welcoming developers who want to handle waste safely while making a profit."

"You all know that the public is scared silly of the mere term 'hazardous waste'," she said. "They aren't scared of the bleach bottle under their sink, the PCB coating on their sewer pipes, the tires on their cars, the gasoline for their lawnmower, nor the thermometer on their walls. Yet all these things are hazardous if handled improperly."

"While the village wants industry, it also wants safety for its people and new health for the surrounding environment."

COPPER-STOP BATTERIES

FACT: Batteries can contain many harmful chemicals such as manganese dioxide, zinc, copper, mercury, lithium oxide, and silver oxide. When batteries are burned, they can release many of these chemicals into the atmosphere. In Sweden, customers return worn-out batteries to the store from which they were purchased so they can be recycled.



Alberta has 2,000 times more ground water than surface water. The need to protect this resource from contamination is expected to restrict the land-filling of untreated wastes in the future.



Any Minute Now!

If you are one of the people who requested information on the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation's *Study Guide* but have yet to receive anything, don't despair. A series of information sessions for educators and interested individuals will take place this spring to demonstrate the use of the Guide and to bring you up to date on developments in

the Alberta Special Waste Management System. If you are an educator interested in special waste management, contact us at the address shown on the back page and we will add your name to our list.

We'll be in touch with everyone who has sent in a request, and we will publish the dates of the information sessions in a coming issue.

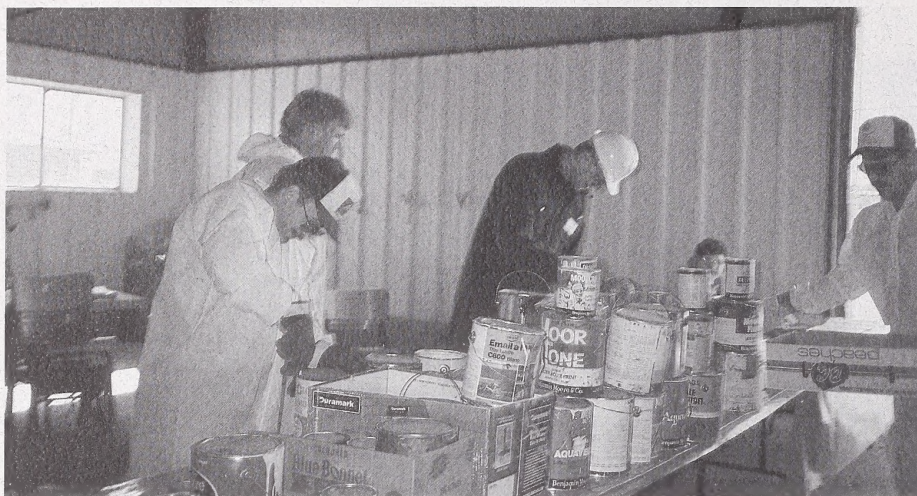
A Moving Appeal

If you've recently changed your address, please let us know so we can keep our mailing list up to date. That way, you'll be sure of receiving first-hand news of events in waste management and environmental protection as they occur. Drop us a note or call ASWMC at one of the numbers listed on

the back page. Please quote the computer number on your mailing label when changing your address.

TAKING CARE OF THE BABY

FACT: Canadians throw out close to 300-million litres of motor oil, 160-million batteries (not including car batteries), and 250 000 tonnes of soiled diapers every year.



Toxic Round-ups Take off

Once again, this Spring, ASWMC is encouraging communities to take an active part in the safe disposal of potentially-hazardous wastes through the Toxic Round-up program. So far, the response has exceeded all expectations. Twenty-one Alberta communities have already arranged collection days – with ASWMC lending support in the form of planning and practical assistance. Toxic Round-ups are planned in the following locations:

- ▲ **April 7**
Carstairs Didsbury
Cremona Olds
Crossfield Sundre
- ▲ **April 21**
Lloydminster Tofield
Nanton Warner
Redwater
- ▲ **April 28**
Cardston Magrath
Glenwood Raymond
Lethbridge Stirling
- ▲ **May 3**
Vegreville
- ▲ **May 5**
County Lac St. Anne
- ▲ **May 12**
Drayton Valley Innisfail
Grande Cache Lac la Biche
- ▲ **May 26**
Airdrie Taber
- ▲ **June 2**
Edmonton Rimbey
Millet Wetaskiwin
Ponoka
- ▲ **June 9**
Banff
Fort Macleod
Fort McMurray
Fort Saskatchewan

- ▲ **June 16**
Black Diamond St. Paul
High River Vulcan
Okotoks
- ▲ **June 23**
Athabasca St. Albert
Camrose

You can prepare for your nearest Toxic Round-up by rounding up all the potentially-hazardous wastes around your home or business. Look for discarded weed-killers, turpentine, creosote, old paint, toxic cleaning substances, antifreeze, and old batteries.

For details of particular waste categories or for information on organizing a Toxic Round-up in *your* community, you're invited to contact Tom Thackeray at ASWMC.

Telephone 1-800-272-8873 or, in Edmonton, call 422-5029.

ALTERNATIVES

PRODUCT	HAZARD	RECOMMENDED DISPOSAL METHOD	ALTERNATIVE
Abrasive Household Cleaners/Powders	Corrosive, toxic, irritant.	Fully use, rinse container thoroughly before disposal in garbage.	Rub surface with half lemon dipped in borax. Rinse, dry.
Ammonia-Based Cleaners	Corrosive, toxic, irritant.	Fully use, rinse container thoroughly before disposal in garbage.	Vinegar, salt, and water mix for surfaces. Baking soda and water for the bathroom.

If you know of similar nontoxic alternatives to household products, please send your suggestions to ASWMC Update at the address shown.

CALL DIRECT:

- ▲ For information on:
 - Hazardous Waste Management Programs in Alberta
 - Toxic Round-ups
 - Community Study Groups**ALBERTA SPECIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION**
 1-800-272-8873
 422-5029 (Edmonton)
 428-9627 (Fax)
- ▲ For a directory of waste management companies in Alberta:
 ALBERTA SPECIAL WASTE SERVICES ASSOCIATION
 424-6384 (Edmonton)
- ▲ For information on:
 - Used Oil Program
 - Recycling: Newspaper, Metals, Plastics, Clothing**RECYCLING BRANCH, ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT**
 427-5838 (Edmonton)
 297-5923 (Calgary)
- ▲ To access the clearing house that puts potential users of waste materials in contact with waste producers:
 ALBERTA WASTE MATERIALS EXCHANGE
 450-5408 (Edmonton)
- ▲ To report an environmental emergency or register a complaint:
 POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION, ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT
 1-800-222-6514
- ▲ For information on the transportation of dangerous goods:
 ALBERTA PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES
 1-800-272-9600

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